

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 18, 22, and 26, and cancel, without prejudice, claims 16, 17, 19, 21 - 28, 30 - 41 as indicated below:

1 (currently amended).      A knife assembly for a wood cutting apparatus, comprising:

a knife having a cutting edge and opposing front and back sides  
extending from said cutting edge, said front side having a first  
interlocking feature and said back side having a second  
interlocking feature; and

an outer clamping member adapted to receive said back side of said  
knife, said outer clamping member having a third interlocking  
feature for interlocking with said second interlocking feature  
to index said knife to said outer clamping member, wherein  
said second interlocking feature includes opposed first plane  
surfaces defining a first positive angle therebetween, and said  
third interlocking feature includes corresponding opposed  
second plane surfaces defining a second positive angle that is  
slightly greater than said first positive angle.

2 (original). The knife assembly of claim 1, further comprising a counterknife adapted to receive said front side of said knife and to mount to the apparatus, said counterknife having a fourth interlocking feature for interlocking with said first interlocking feature to index said knife to said counterknife, said outer clamping member adapted to mount to said counterknife.

3 (original). The knife assembly of claim 1, wherein the difference between said first positive angle and said second positive angle is in the range of about  $1/4$  - 7 degrees.

4 (original). The knife assembly of claim 2, wherein the difference between said first positive angle and said second positive angle is in the range of about  $1/4$  - 7 degrees.

5 (original). The knife assembly of claim 1, wherein said first angle is about 70 degrees.

6 (original). The knife assembly of claim 2, wherein said first angle is about 70 degrees.

7 (original). The knife assembly of claim 5, wherein said second angle is about 72 degrees.

8 (original). The knife assembly of claim 6, wherein said second angle is about 72 degrees.

9 (original). The knife assembly of claim 1, wherein said opposed first plane surfaces are

spaced apart by an intermediating plane surface, said first plane surfaces defining a first positive angle therebetween, said first plane surfaces defining respective equal angles with respect to said intermediating plane surface.

10 (original). The knife assembly of claim 9, wherein the difference between said first positive angle and said second positive angle is in the range of about  $1/4$  - 7 degrees.

11 (original). The knife assembly of claim 9, wherein said first angle is about 70 degrees

12 (original). The knife assembly of claim 11, wherein said second angle is about 72 degrees.

13 (original). A knife for use in a knife assembly for a wood cutting apparatus including a counterknife adapted for mounting to the apparatus and an outer clamping member adapted for mounting to the counterknife and for clamping the knife therebetween, the knife having an elongate axis and comprising two spaced apart cutting edges parallel to said elongate axis, and opposing front and back sides extending between said cutting edges, said front side having a first interlocking feature for interlocking to the counterknife and said back side having a second interlocking feature for interlocking to the outer clamping member, wherein said first interlocking feature includes a channel extending parallel to said elongate axis, and wherein said second interlocking feature includes opposed spaced apart plane surfaces defining a positive angle therebetween.

14 (original). The knife of claim 13, wherein said channel is defined by two spaced apart deflector ridges each having a concavely curved outer side surface terminating in a line.

15 (original). The knife of claim 14, wherein said first angle is about 70 degrees.

16 (cancelled).

17 (cancelled).

18 (amended). ~~The knife assembly of claim 17,~~ A knife assembly for a wood cutting apparatus, comprising:

a knife having an elongate axis and comprising two spaced apart cutting edges parallel to said elongate axis, and opposing front and back sides extending between said cutting edges, said front side having a pair of spaced apart deflector ridges extending parallel to said elongate axis and outwardly from said front side; and

a counterknife adapted to receive said front side of said knife and to mount to the apparatus, said counterknife having an interlocking feature providing substantially full contact with said knife between said deflector ridges, to index said knife to said counterknife, wherein said

knife ~~includes~~ including respective ~~third~~ planar surfaces adjacent each of said deflector ridges extending out to the corresponding, ~~said third planar surfaces extending substantially from said deflector ridges out to the respective cutting edges and defining a third cross-sectional width defined in said cross-section~~, and wherein said counterknife includes a ~~fourth~~ planar surface adapted to make contact with a selected one of said ~~third~~ planar surfaces of said knife over at least 50% of said ~~third cross-sectional~~ width ~~when said knife is received by said counterknife~~.

19 (cancelled).

20 (original). The knife assembly of claim 18, further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to receive said back side of said knife and to mount to said counterknife, said outer clamping member having an interlocking feature for interlocking with a corresponding interlocking feature of said back side of said knife to index said knife to said outer clamping member so that, in cooperation with said substantially full contact, a small gap exists between an exposed one of said deflector ridges and said counterknife, said gap ranging from about 0.001" - 0.008".

21 (cancelled).

22 (cancelled).

23 (cancelled).

24 (cancelled).

25 (cancelled).

26 (cancelled).

27 cancelled).

28 (cancelled).

29 (original). A wood cutting apparatus, comprising:

a rotating member for rotating about an axis of rotation;

a knife having a cutting edge and opposing front and back sides  
extending from said cutting edge, said front side having a first  
interlocking feature and said back side having a second  
interlocking feature;

an outer clamping member adapted to receive said back side of said knife, said outer clamping member having a third interlocking feature for interlocking with said second interlocking feature to index said knife to said outer clamping member, and said second interlocking feature includes opposed first plane surfaces defining a first positive angle therebetween, wherein said third interlocking feature includes corresponding opposed second plane surfaces defining a second positive angle that is slightly greater than said first positive angle; and

a counterknife adapted to receive said front side of said knife and to mount to said rotating member, said counterknife having a fourth interlocking feature for interlocking with said first interlocking feature to index said knife to said counterknife, said outer clamping member adapted to mount to said counterknife.

30 (cancelled).

31 (cancelled).

32 (cancelled).

33 (cancelled).

34 (cancelled).

35 (cancelled).

36 (cancelled).

37 (cancelled).

38 (cancelled).

39 (cancelled).

40 (cancelled).

41 (cancelled).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garth Janke", written over the printed name.

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